**Road bridge at Saraighat under NHDP**

736. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Assam has represented for converting the proposed road bridge at Saraighat under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) to a rail cum road bridge; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and target set with total annual allocation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government of Assam had sent a request in December 2006 for conversion of bridge at Saraighat from road bridge to rail cum road bridge. The work of construction of road bridge at Saraighat was already awarded in May 2006. Since the work had already been awarded, any change at that stage may have resulted in contractual difficulties and subsequent litigation and hence, it was not possible to agree to the request of Govt. of Assam.

**Expansion of GT Road from Delhi-Amritsar and Delhi-Chandigarh**

737. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the G.T. Road from Delhi to Amritsar and Delhi to Chandigarh are under expansion;

(b) if so, the number of bridges to be constructed on these National Highways; and

(c) the number of trees on these Highways pulled down due to expansion of Highways and approximate cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 160 nos of bridges are to be constructed on these National Highways.

(c) 108965 nos of trees are to be cut. Total cost including compensation for afforestation as also Net Present Value (NPV) paid for diversion of forest land is Rs.240.507 crore.

**Development of expressways in the country**

738. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to kick start the stalled road programme under an ambitious network of expressways to boost connectivity across States in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has prepared any draft final report for the development of expressways in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and